

IN THE CLAIMS

For the convenience of the Examiner, Applicants provide below both amended and non-amended claims. Please amend claims 18-22 as indicated below:

*Sub G1*  
18. (As filed) The method of claim 20, wherein before hybridization, the target polynucleotide is amplified by the polymerase chain reaction.

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*Sub G1*  
19. (Once Amended) An isolated polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:  
a) a polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,  
b) a naturally-occurring polynucleotide sequence [having at least 90% sequence identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:2] encoding an amino acid sequence having at least 90% sequence identity to the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and  
c) a polynucleotide sequence complementary to a) or b).

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*D' Sub G3*  
20. (Once Amended) A method of detecting a target polynucleotide in a sample, said target polynucleotide having the sequence of a polynucleotide of claim 19, comprising  
hybridizing the sample with a probe comprising at least [16] 15 contiguous nucleotides comprising a sequence complementary to said target polynucleotide in the sample, and which probe specifically hybridizes to said target polynucleotide, under conditions whereby a hybridization complex is formed between said probe and said target polynucleotide, and detecting the presence or absence of said hybridization complex, and, optionally, if present, the amount thereof.

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21. (As filed) A method of claim 20, wherein the probe comprises at least 30 contiguous nucleotides.

22. (As filed). A method of claim 20, wherein the probe comprises at least 60 contiguous nucleotides.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 18-22 are pending. Claims 19 and 20 have been amended by entry of this amendment. Claim 1 was drawn from further consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the non-elected claims in subsequent